Improving productivity in growing pigs by combining specific and non-specific monitoring

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IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY IN GROWING PIGS
BY COMBINING SPECIFIC AND NON-SPECIFIC MONITORING

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CONCLUSION

The graphical visualization of specific and non-specific monitoring may potentially be an important tool for farmers and veterinarians to get an overview of each production batch.

Introduction

The goal of this study was to combine non-specific clinical and production data with test results for specific infections in order to identify key-parameters and trends for early detection of disease.

Materials and Methods

The study included 2 herds with production of pigs from 30-110 kilo. The specific and non-specific monitoring consisted of observation at section level, at pen level and at pig level.

- In each of the herds, 2 sections were selected for specific and non-specific monitoring.
- In each of the sections, 4 focus-pens were selected for specific and non-specific monitoring.
- In each of the focus-pens, 5 pigs were earmarked and selected for specific monitoring.

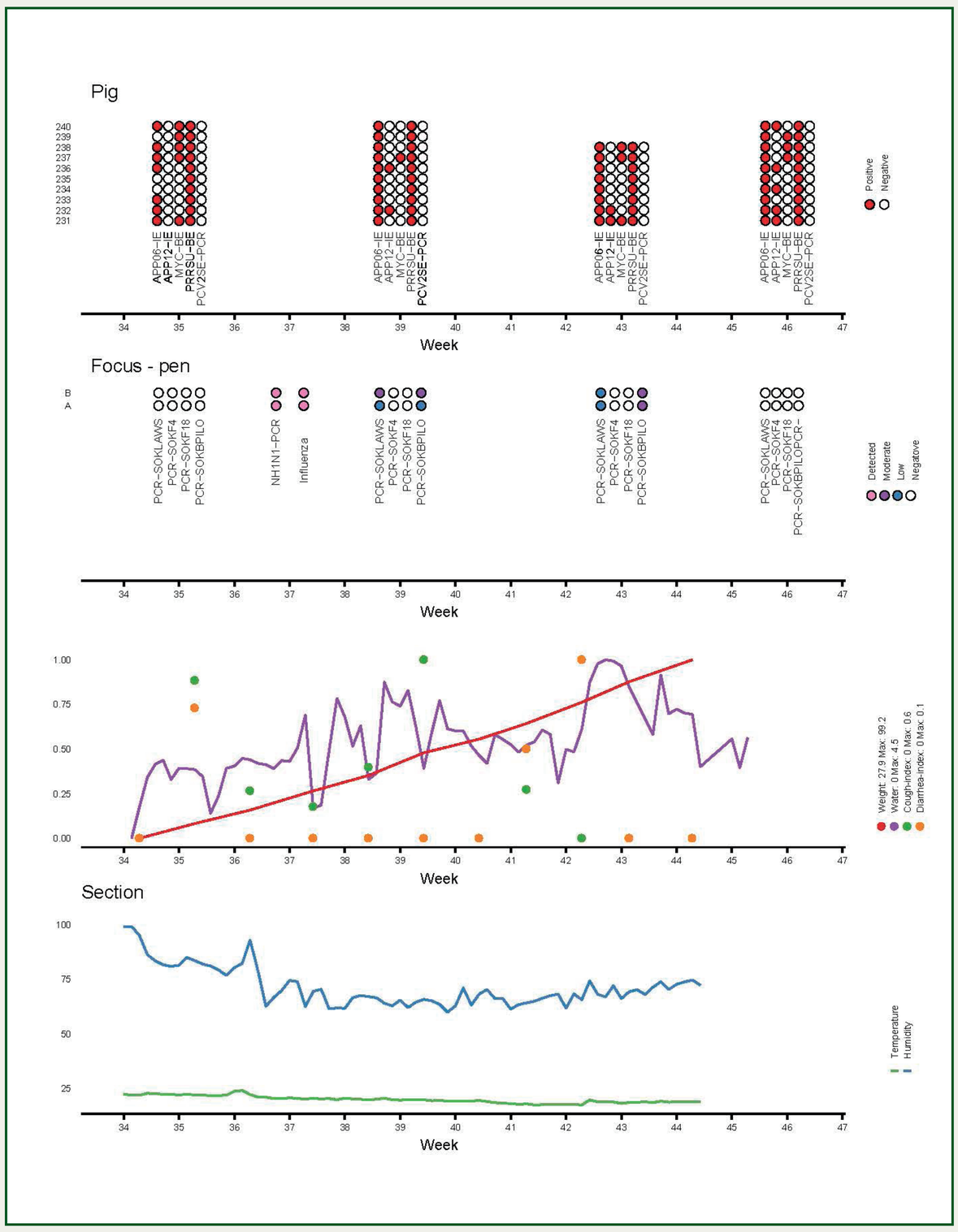
The non-specific monitoring included production and clinical data:

- Continuously at section and focus-pen level
  - Water consumption
  - Mortality
  - Antibiotic consumption
- Weekly in focus-pens
  - Weight gain
  - Feed consumption
  - Cough-index
  - Diarrhea-index
- At slaughter examination of lungs of randomly selected pigs from focus-pens

The specific monitoring included:

- Weekly in focus-pens
  - Oral fluid for Influenza by qRT-PCR. If positive tested for H1N1
- Every 4th week
  - In focus-pens: Fecal samples tested for *E.coli F4* (F4), *E.coli F18* (F18), *Lawsonia intracellularis* (LAWS) and *Brachyspira pilosicoli* (BPILO)
  - From earmarked pigs: Blood samples tested for *Mycoplasma hyopenumonia* (MYC), *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* serotype 6 and 12 (APP06, APP12), PRRS and PCV2.

Results



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